

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 4/20/05

Division: County Attorney

Bulk Item: Yes X No

Department: County Attorney

Staff Contact Person: John R. Collins

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Approval of a Resolution supporting the authorization of the National Park Service's boundary adjustment for the Tarpon Basin property adjacent to Everglades National Park.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

The National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy are working together to request congressional authorization to allow for the National Park Service to adjust its boundary to include Tarpon Basin property currently owned by The Nature Conservancy.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

N/A

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval.

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: Yes N/A No

COST TO COUNTY: N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No xx **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty *JK* OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:

John R. Collins 04/20/05
JOHN R. COLLINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY

DOCUMENTATION: Included Not Required X

DISPOSITION:

AGENDA ITEM #

RESOLUTION NO. -2005

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SUPPORTING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL
PARK SERVICE'S BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT FOR THE
TARPON BASIN PROPERTY ADJACENT TO EVERGLADES
NATIONAL PARK.**

Whereas, habitat protection is a cornerstone of the recovery efforts for federally endangered and threatened species in the Florida Keys,

Whereas, the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy are working together to request a congressional authorization to allow for the National Park Service to adjust its boundary to include Tarpon Basin property currently owned by The Nature Conservancy,

Whereas, The Nature Conservancy acquired this property in May 2003 subsequent to a letter of intent from the National Park Service,

Whereas, the wetland portions of the tract include exceptional mangrove forest that will benefit from National Park Service management attention that is currently lacking,

Whereas, subject to authorization, the Conservancy will convey the property to the National Park Service,

Whereas, this property is a priority for the Park due to its significant natural resources,

Whereas, the property is immediately adjacent to Everglades National Park in the Key Largo District of the Park, and

Whereas, the property consists of multiple parcels and is approximately 580 acres in size, and

Whereas, the property includes significant marine and coastal resources characteristic of Florida Bay and the Florida Keys,

Whereas, this property contains habitat for the American crocodile, West Indian manatee, white-crowned pigeon, other neo-tropical migrant bird species, and various other threatened and endangered plant and animal species,

Whereas, this property is entirely within the Conservation and Natural Area (Tier I),

Whereas, this boundary adjustment is compatible with the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan, the Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study, and the South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan.

Whereas, this property is not located within the current National Park Service boundaries and the National Park Service must obtain congressional approval to expand park boundaries before they can acquire the property from The Nature Conservancy,

Whereas, the National Park Service is working to draft the legislation for Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen to sponsor the authorization of the boundary adjustment to Everglades National Park.

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida:

The Board of County Commissioners is hereby requested to support the authorization of the National Park Service's boundary adjustment for the Tarpon Basin property adjacent to Everglades National Park.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida at a regular meeting held on the ____ day of April, A.D., 2005.

Mayor Dixie Spehar	_____
Mayor Charles "Sonny" McCoy	_____
Commissioner Murray Nelson	_____
Commissioner George Neugent	_____
Commissioner David Rice	_____

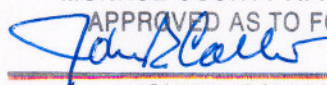
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Mayor Dixie Spehar

(Seal)

ATTEST:

Danny L. Kolhage, Clerk

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
APPROVED AS TO FORM:


JOHN R. COLLINS
COUNTY ATTORNEY
Date 04/05/05